

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XIII, No. 11, November, 1915

From Some Editorial Notes:

On Criticism.—Some thoughts on criticism in general have been suggested by the fact that a number of people in Sacramento have more or less heatedly taken the editor to task for an editorial note which appeared in the JOURNAL, criticizing the policy of a city in turning out a full-time health officer, and presumably a well-trained one, as he was, we understand, picked in competitive examination. The point is that the editor was attacked for publishing certain criticism; there was no discussion of the thing criticized! If one is to be personally attacked for uttering words of criticism, it would seem logical to show first that the thing criticized is essentially right and that hence the critical words were improperly used. If a criticism is just, it is no argument against it to berate the critic. If it can be shown that it is not just, then the critic should most certainly be taken to task for his improper and unwarranted use of critical words. It may be conceded that no one likes to be criticized and that when anything is criticized, someone is sure to be offended thereby, either rightly or wrongly. If no one and nothing were ever criticized; if errors and mistakes and misdemeanors were never pointed out, what a chaotic world we would live in, and how impossible life would become! . . . Time alone will show the right or the wrong of this particular thing. To attack the editor does not alter the right or the wrong of the thing mentioned. It is often discouraging to have personalities injected into a discussion of things or conditions as such. And it certainly is much easier to go through life openly admitting that all things are possible and that everybody is right!

Rockefeller Foundation and Hookworm.—The Rockefeller Foundation has recently issued an annual report, largely dealing with its International Health Commission, and purposes hereafter to issue such reports each year. The work of this one branch of the Foundation is stupendous. . . .

Test Your Wassermann!—There is a story about a man, upon whom a certain rude community had imposed the duty of dispensing justice; he declared his intention of hearing only one side of the case; "for," said he, "to hear two sides would have a tendency to confuse the court."

Such an evasion of the problem resulting from a conflict of testimony is not always feasible in the practice of medicine; and we can not help wondering how widespread is the trouble of mind which the practitioner suffers from the contradictory reports issued by workers who make the Wassermann tests. To stick to a single serologist would secure the mental repose which the backwoods justice was so anxious to preserve; but we fear that a regular assumption of one's Wassermann worker's infallibility would not be compatible with one's duty. . . .

One lesson to be learned from this, if the lesson needed learning, is that the physician must not abdicate too readily in favor of the laboratory worker, but must keep his clinical head. Furthermore, a laboratory method convenient for the use of the practitioner himself, to serve as a check upon the serologist, is very much desiderated. . . .

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News

Report by Special Agent Hunter relates that an individual using the name Reverend George Baker was arrested by him at Livermore after he had prescribed a dilute solution of listerine for Hunter, who posed as a patient; that Baker has been identified as an individual named Cohn, who, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has quite a criminal record and has operated all over the western part of the country, being active in California for only three months. A clipping from the Sacramento *Bee* of October 1, 1940, related in part as follows:

"Harry Cohn, 59, who, the investigators said, went by the name of Rev. George Baker when conducting his business of fortune telling and spiritualism, was in the Butte County jail on a charge of petit theft, filed by his former partner, Ange From, 50, the miner, who declared Cohn defrauded him of \$76. Constable Tom Reeves returned Cohn from Watsonville, where he had been arrested by the local police. Reeves said his investigation disclosed that Cohn had an electrical device which is supposed to reveal the presence of gold. He said From told him he paid \$76 for a reading and Cohn went into a trance and on coming out promised to find treasure buried in the Santa Cruz mountains. From declared: 'All I got was exercise.' A second charge of petit theft was filed against Cohn yesterday by John A. Taylor of Willows. Taylor said he put up \$132 to finance a treasure hunt."

"St. Louis Estes, raw food advocate, today was sentenced to 150 days in the county jail and fined \$2,500 by Municipal Judge White. Estes, convicted last week of ten counts of practicing medicine without a license, was denied a new trial. Through his attorney, J. A. Brown, he filed notice of appeal. Judge White fixed bail at \$500 pending outcome of the appeal. It was the second trial for Estes. His first conviction was set aside because of a jury mixup. Estes, formerly a Southern Californian, brought his theories of food and health here about two years ago. With him came his large family—all adepts at practicing his theories. Dr. Estes is 75. Estes was accused by Arthur A. Derrickson, 55, of 955 Ellis Street, who contended he had paid Estes \$1,130 for treatment of impaired sight." (San Francisco *News*, September 27, 1940.) (Prior entries, May, 1930; November, 1935; March, 1936; December, 1938; February and November, 1939; May, 1940.)

"Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, naturalized Austrian-born physician, was denied passage as an ordinary seaman on the American President liner *President Garfield* which sailed for the Orient yesterday. Erben, who has been under surveillance of the FBI for alleged 'fifth column' activities, was removed from the ship's rolls by company officials shortly before sailing time at noon. The widely traveled medical specialist had previously signed on and had worked two days as an ordinary seaman while the transpacific liner was in port. In accordance with U. S. regulations governing the employment of seamen, Erben is entitled to one month's pay in addition to wages for the time. Captain L. H. Westdahl, marine superintendent here for the American President Lines, confirmed the incident, saying Erben

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

Bequest Forms: Unto the California Medical Association*

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR CASH BEQUEST

I hereby give and bequeath unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California, the sum of \$_____ to be known as the _____ Gift, to be used and expended by said corporation for scientific, educational, or hospital purposes.

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I give and bequeath unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California, the sum of \$_____, to be held as a fund, to be known as the [here insert name desired] Fund, the principal whereof shall from time to time be invested to the best advantage compatible with safety, and the income whereof shall be used and applied for scientific, educational, or hospital purposes.

* * *

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR BEQUEST OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

I give and bequeath unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California [here describe the property], the same, or the proceeds thereof, to be held as a perpetual fund, to be known as the [here insert name desired] Fund, the income whereof shall be used and applied for scientific, educational, or hospital purposes. The said corporation shall have the power to sell said property and to invest and reinvest the proceeds arising from the sale thereof from time to time as it may deem advisable for the purpose of producing as large an income as may be compatible with safety.

* * *

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR DEVISE OF REAL PROPERTY

I give and devise unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California, to aid and further its scientific, educational, and hospital purposes, and to be known as the _____ Gift, the following described real property situate in the County of _____, State of California, and more particularly described as follows, to wit:

* * *

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I give and devise unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California [here describe the property], the same, or the proceeds thereof, to be held as a perpetual fund, to be known as the [here insert name desired] Fund, the income whereof shall be used for and applied to the support and maintenance of scientific, educational, or hospital purposes. The said corporation shall have the power to sell said property and to invest and reinvest the proceeds arising from the sale thereof from time to time as it may deem advisable for the purpose of producing as large as income as may be compatible with safety.

* These Bequest Forms were discussed editorially in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for March, 1936, p. 145, and June, 1936, p. 460.

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Rights and Duties Under Health Laws.—The following extracts are taken from the Monthly Bulletin of the Los Angeles Health Department for August, 1915. It would not be a bad idea if every physician had some of these suggestions printed on slips and placed on the waiting-room table; it would help disseminate the simple knowledge and get the people to understand what all public health rules are—measures for their own good:

The health laws of your city have been made to protect you from disease and from early death. They are to make you live long. They are the result of long experience. They are to protect you and your family.

The city officials are your representatives. When they direct you to do certain things and not to do certain other things, it means that you and the people who live next door and the people who live on the next street, have made certain rules and regulations through them. Your representatives have made these in order to protect you; they have made them because such rules are necessary. Naturally you will want to live up to them.

If Health Laws are really to make more healthful conditions, you should do your share. You should do what the law says. You should urge your friends to do so as well. . . .

* * *

Sanitation Possibilities.—It seems well nigh impossible to make the people see what can be done in saving their health and their lives by proper sanitary measures, even in the face of such tremendous examples as Cuba, the Canal Zone, and districts where large government undertakings are in progress. To change, in a few months, the pest-hole

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of the world—the Isthmus of Panama—into one of the healthiest places on the globe, one would think would be of sufficient importance to make everybody in every community sit up and take sufficient notice to demand the like conditions in his own "home town." But not so. . .

Plague History.—Since publishing the brief note in regard to the position of the State Society and its direct influence in starting the campaign against plague in San Francisco, some years ago, our attention has been called to an omission by the author of the article mentioned. The *Occidental Medical Times*, edited by Dr. James H. Parkinson, Sacramento, was then alive—and very much alive, for Doctor Parkinson, as editor of that publication and as a member of the Council of the State Society, was extremely active in urging public support of the work and publicity of the facts in the daily press. It may not be clearly remembered after the passage of these years, just who was most active or most responsible for what happened, but it is certain that no two persons were more thoroughly roused or more active in their attacks upon the lethargic conditions of the time, than were the President of the Society, Doctor Evans, and Doctor Parkinson, of Sacramento.

Extract of Liver, a Futurist Remedy.—To be a success, a proprietary must contain something new, or at least something regarding the therapeutic value of which the physician is ignorant. A remedy which fulfills this requirement is Filudine, a proprietary which has recently been investigated by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry (see

"Items of Interest," this issue). Filudine contains as its chief ingredient extract of liver along with extract of spleen and pancreas and thiarfeine which used to be "thiomethyl arsinat" but now, according to the manufacturer, is "thiocinnamate of caffeine." The vast possibilities of extract of liver are appreciated when we learn that it contains "iron (the ferruginous function of the liver) phosphorized azatous bodies, lecithin, jecorin, glycogen, fats and ferments, such as proteolytic ferments, and the ferments of nucleic substances (nucleases, adenases, xantinoxidases, glyoxylases, and an uricolytic ferment; the ferments of ethers and fats, of hydrates, carbon, catalases and oxydases." We wonder if a cat's fondness for liver has any relation to its proverbial "seven lives."

From an Original Article on "The Modern Diagnosis of Hematuria," by Martin Krotoszyner, M. D., San Francisco.—Goethe in his immortal Faust terms blood a juice of extraordinary character, and bleeding from any source or organ is generally considered an awe-inspiring event among laymen; physicians, too, look upon hemorrhage, even in small or only microscopically recognizable quantities, as a serious, and if continuous, as an ominous symptom, from the early recognition and correct interpretation of which the health and comfort and, not rarely, the life of the patient may depend. . .

From an Original Article on "Clinical Records," by Eugene S. Kilgore, M. D., San Francisco.—1. Outline of Case Histories. The following outline of history and physical examination with remarks on the same is from the "Ward Reference Book" of the University of California Hospital. It is the prescribed form for use in the

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medical service of Dr. H. C. Moffitt, and with suitable modifications, it is used by the other services. It is put in the hands of medical students during the course in physical diagnosis and is thereafter followed by them in their case reports. It is not offered as anything original (in particular, we acknowledge indebtedness to Dr. Richard Cabot for suggestions), but merely as an example of a form which has been found satisfactory and useful in teaching and in standardizing the clinical records of the hospital. The adherence by interns to a standard arrangement of histories reduces the number of important facts which fail to get into the records and is an aid to the one who reads the histories in search of particular statements. The exact arrangement of the history form is largely a matter of individual preference, but certain points which merit special consideration are brought out in the "Remarks and Directions to Interns" which follow. . . .

From an Original Article on "Conditions in the Lower Back Involving the Sacro-Lumbar and Sacro-Iliac Articulations," by C. L. Lowman, M. D., Los Angeles.—The careful consideration of symptoms and findings in cases in which the lower back is involved has, during the past few years, opened up the way to fruitful results, clearing the way for the relief of a large class of cases, such as the so-called "sciatica," "sciatic rheumatism," "lumbago," "neuritis," etc., which have gone the rounds, getting varying degrees of help, or none at all.

We were formerly erroneously taught that the sacro-iliac joint was not a true joint, and that in the adult the sacrum

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fused with the iliac bones. Later, from observations in obstetric practice, in injury cases and in cases of pathologic lesions in this locality, various men were moved to closer study of the anatomy of this region. Goldthwait, especially, was one of the earliest to bring this to the attention of the profession. Albee, in dissections on forty or more cadavers, found true joint structures, synovia, cartilage, etc., and decided the sacro-iliac joints were true joints. . . .

From an Original Article on "The Diagnosis of Ureteral Calculi, and a Description of a Technic for Use of the Wax-Tipped Catheter in the Male," by Frank Hinman, M. D., San Francisco.—The symptoms of urinary stone are in no way diagnostic. The colic due to stone differs in no way from that due to blood clots, to kinks in the ureter, to adhesions or bands of constriction about it or to inflammation or congestion within. Ureteral colic is indistinguishable from renal colic: 80 per cent of 131 cases of ureteral stone at the Mayo Clinic had pain referred to the kidney, and appendiceal crises or gall-bladder attacks often simulate renal colic. Occasionally the pain due to stone in the lower end of the ureter will be so localized as to be suggestive. On the other hand a stone not infrequently becomes lodged in the ureter and produces serious renal damage without giving rise to symptoms of any kind whatsoever. . . .

From "Education at the Exposition."—The Palace of Education at the Exposition continues to be the center of educational conferences. The Public Health exhibits, par-

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ticularly those of the U. S. Public Health Service and the Health Department of Pennsylvania, have drawn crowds of interested observers.

The attendance in the section of the California Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis last month was over 15,000. . . .

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was 'undesirable as an employee.' 'We had no idea that a man who has previously been denied an application as ship's doctor would attempt to sign on as an ordinary seaman. A routine checkup made prior to sailing revealed the man's true identity and we simply dismissed him.' An action brought by the U. S. Government to determine whether or not he was properly naturalized in 1930 is pending in the federal court. According to Erben, who denies he is a Nazi sympathizer, he has been turned down for enlistment in both the army and navy because he is 'too old.' Erben gave his age as 43." (San Francisco Chronicle, September 19, 1940.) "Although his first venture to sail from here as an ordinary seaman ended in failure, Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, Austrian-born brain specialist and adventurer whose citizenship is under Government attack, has tried again, it was revealed yesterday. He signed up for \$60 a month ordinary seaman's job at Tacoma on the Grace Line freighter *Staghound*, but his presence abroad was discovered by company officials as the vessel docked here, preparatory to sailing for South America, and they took

steps to remove him from the crew list. . . . Dr. Erben, 41, was surgeon aboard the freighter which acted as supply ship for the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee*, and on his return here the Government started court action to revoke his citizenship. A decision is expected within the next three months. . . ." (San Francisco Examiner, October 20, 1940.) (Previous entries, November, 1938; October, 1940.)

"Dr. C. F. Ott, wealthy Pacific Palisades physician, today faced a maximum sentence of a year and a half in jail or a \$1,500 fine, or both, as a result of his conviction yesterday on three misdemeanor counts of brutally beating and mistreating his three dogs. A jury in Municipal Judge Oda Faulconer's court brought in the verdict against the doctor, who, nine prosecution witnesses testified, had beaten, kicked and choked the three animals, Dash, Pal and Mickey. Doctor Ott will come up for sentence tomorrow at 2 p. m. and in the meantime has been released on his own recognizance. The jury of ten women and two men, who deliberated for almost two hours, cast only one ballot—unanimously for conviction. . . ." (Los Angeles Herald and Express, September 19, 1940.)

"The case of Dr. John H. Becker of Banning, interesting from a legal point because of the precedent it may have established regarding the powers of the state medical board in revoking licenses, apparently came to an end this week, with the decision going to the physician. Dismissing an appeal taken by the State from a Riverside County superior court decision, the fourth district court of appeal ordered

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